

REMARKS

Claims 36-39 are all the claims pending in the application, each of which is amended as discussed in the interview with the Examiner and SPE on November 6, 2007. Submitted herewith is a Statement of Substance of Interview summarizing that interview.

Claims 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Okajima (JP 402093781) in view of Amirpanahi U.S. 5,648,906). Applicant amends the claims to make it clear that the increasingly higher variable price per time increases as time progresses. As the examiners agreed in the interview neither Okajima nor Amirpanahi, alone or in combination, teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 36-39 are patentable over the prior art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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